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Eleventh meeting of the Africa Regional
Co-ordinating Committee for the
Integration of Women in Development (ARCC)

6 - 8 May 1990
Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

LC/NAIROBI

NOTE ON
ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (ARCC) in 1991

I. Background

1. The Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) is a subsidiary organ of ECA whose major function is to review, evaluate and harmonize programmes carried out in the region (at subregional and regional levels), for the Advancement of Women. ARCC is made up of fifteen member States, three from each of the five ECA subregions. These fifteen member States are the members of the Bureau of the five subregional Committees on Integration of Women in Development (SRC).

2. The Subregional Committees operate through regular meetings convened by MULPOCs during which each subregion comes up with its own programme of work and priorities. These determine the programme of activities to be carried out both at the Subregional and Regional levels. Each MULPOC had every two years a meeting of its subregional committee at which they had election of a new bureau composed of a president, a vice president and a rapporteur. These elected members of the bureau who represented the subregion at ARCC annual meetings had their own meeting in-between the two years to review progress made in implementation of subregional women's programmes. All these meetings were serviced by the MULPOCs through the coordinator of the women's programme.

3. The termination of UNDP funding of the five posts of WID coordinators of the MULPOCs as well as the support to subregional and regional WID structures, in December 1987, reduced the staff capacity to meet operational needs of WID programmes. So far, ECA has not been able to fill the shortfall thus created. Although the MULPOCs continued to formulate projects which address special needs of women in their subregions in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 40/105 of 13 December 1985 requesting regional commissions to incorporate women's concerns at all levels in their overall work programme, the implementation of WID programme in the MULPOCs without an assigned coordinator except Tanger MULPOC, has become very problematic. For the same reason, subregional committees have not been able to function.

4. While looking for solutions to ensure sustainability of these subregional and regional WID/ECA organs, the fifteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers held in Addis-Ababa from 6 to 10 April 1989 adopted the resolution 666(XXIV) extending the mandates of the bureaux of the subregional committees and of the ARCC for another two years, from 1989 to 1991. The same resolution requested the Executive Secretary of ECA to make every effort to mobilize resources for the women's programme in the MULPOCs. Furthermore, it was recommended that member States make voluntary contributions to the programme so as to enable MULPOCs to achieve their objectives. The Fourth Regional Conference on Women in Development held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 6 to 10 November 1989 expressed the same concern.

5. In the event that no significant change takes place in the situation of MULPOCs as far as WID programme is concerned, it is recommended that the eleventh meeting of ARCC begins to consider the best ways and approaches to revitalize subregional WID structures and make them operational. This note is therefore presented as a guide to the meeting for the deliberations and

recommendations on the above crucial issue. To this end, the note provides a picture of the situation and gives some possible options that can be considered for recommendation to the eleventh meeting of TEPCOW and the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers taking place in Tripoli, on 5-12 and 13-19 May 1990 respectively.

II. Membership of ARCC from 1979 to date

6. Member States elected in the bureaux of the subregional committees which formed ARCC since 1979 are shown in the table attached. The table indicates that so far there was only one extension of mandate of ARCC members in 1989.

The ARCC was chaired subsequently by Cameroon, Guinea, Burundi and Ghana. Members of the bureaux were as follows:

	1979-1980	1981-1982*	1983-1984	1985-1986	1987-1989 & 1989-1991
President	Cameroon	Cameroon	Guinea	Burundi	Ghana
1st Vice Pres.	Zambia	Gambia	Swaziland	United Rep. of Tanzania	Tunisia
2nd Vice Pres.	Morocco		Congo	Congo	Zimbabwe
1st Rapporteur	Senegal	Rwanda	Zaire	Togo	Rwanda
2nd Rapporteur	Rwanda		Morocco	Morocco	Equatorial Guinea

* In 1981, ARCC elected a bureau of three members composed by: Cameroon as President, Gambia as Vice-President and Rwanda as Rapporteur.

III. Options for election of ARCC members in 1991

Revitalization and operationalization of the ECA/WID Subregional structures have been a major issue for all concerned since it is through these subregional structures that ARCC can be functional and be sure to address women's concerns at all levels. In view of the absence of subregional meetings which has resulted in non election of ARCC members in 1989, some alternative options are being proposed for consideration :

(a) Member States could provide WID experts to the MULPOCs like the

Government of Egypt did. These experts would then have the responsibility to mobilized resources for the women's programme within their specific subregion. The experts would also organize the subregional committee meetings;

(b) Member States could make direct assistance to MULPOCs through specific pledges to UNTFAD for WID experts and activities at the subregional level;

(c) Women leaders could induce their national IPF Funds from UNDP to earmark a certain percentage to subregional women's programme that could be channelled to the MULPOCs for maintaining WID programmes;

(d) MULPOCs could assign one of their staff members to follow up women's programme. To supplement this effort, there would be need for a WID programme officer at ATRCW who would liaise with the MULPOCs for development and implementation of subregional programmes. The funding of this position will need to be looked into from all possible sources. This officer, in collaboration with MULPOCs would then have to organize subregional committee meetings prior to the meetings of statutory bodies of the MULPOCs;

(e) Another option is to reconsider the whole subregional approach to women's programme. Members of ARCC would still be representatives of each subregion but designated by the Regional Conference. The duration of the mandate of ARCC members would therefore be from one regional conference to another. Under this option, the active participation of subregional economic groupings such as ECOWAS, SADCC, PTA, ECCAS would need to be considered.

In case the meeting agrees with options (a), (b), (c), and (d) measures would be taken to hold subregional committee meetings and election of new members of ARCC before the next meeting of ARCC in 1991.

If option (e) is adopted, the present membership of ARCC will continue till the fifth Regional Conference scheduled to take place in 1994. However, ARCC could elect a new bureau for two years during its twelfth meeting in 1991.

Whichever option is agreed upon, they should all lead to the sustainability of the ARCC machinery.